

welfare reform; and as my friend from South Carolina just mentioned, this is an opportunity to build on a genuine success story.

My friend from Kansas came to the well earlier and he spoke of our great former President Ronald Reagan who had the right instincts when President Reagan said, Success in terms of helping people needs to be defined not by the numbers of people added to the welfare rolls, but by the numbers of people who depart those rolls and who go out and get jobs.

What we started in 1996, despite the wailing and gnashing of teeth of some, was something truly remarkable and truly constructive. When we reaffirm the dignity of work and the reality instead of just the rhetoric that the best program in the United States is not a social program, it is a job, to reaffirm individual self-worth, to reaffirm the dignity of work and the pride and personhood. That is the challenge that confronts us as we reauthorize landmark welfare reform.

CRITICAL TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE SYSTEM

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it used to be that when Members took to the floor to discuss the issue of welfare there was not a lot of good news; but as a member of the Committee on the Budget, I am pleased to report that things are looking up thanks to the welfare reform legislation passed by the Republicans in 1996. Today, we are introducing a bill that builds upon the indisputable success of the 1996 law, and I am proud to support it.

Republican-led welfare reform has proved successful by replacing welfare checks with paychecks, fostering independence, boosting personal income, and improving the well-being of children. It is critical that we continue to improve the welfare system so that people can continue to improve their lives.

Six years ago, we made a historic and positive change in our society and the role of our government. We can now say with confidence that the system is working because people are working. We have turned a corner, but our work is far from being done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues who supported the success of the 1996 bill to keep up the good work and spread the good word to those who doubted this landmark reform last time around. Let us put people before politics.

STRONGLY ENCOURAGE RENEWED DEBATE ON WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to strongly encourage renewed debate on welfare reform. It is imperative to all Americans that the institution of welfare is reformed and repaired in order for those who need real assistance to get help from the government they need. I am excited about welfare reform legislation that will begin genuine improvement in the lives of underprivileged Americans.

Six years ago Members of this body united to pass a bill that revolutionized the lives of welfare recipients. In the 6 years since the passing of that legislation, America has witnessed a huge decline in welfare dependence. In fact, the numbers show that individuals receiving cash assistance has dropped by 56 percent.

In the past 6 years, over 3 million children have been lifted from the depths of poverty. Former welfare recipients and their children are achieving their independence from welfare.

We have taken a step in the right direction, but we have only scratched the surface. The House must finish the work we started 6 years ago. We must stay determined to ensure the success of welfare reform moving forward. We cannot undermine the reforms we have taken by expecting the needed changes to happen on their own. We cannot rest, and I ask my colleagues to continue to support the call for reauthorization of welfare reform.

DIGITAL TECH CORPS ACT OF 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 380 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 380

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3925) to establish an exchange program between the Federal Government and the private sector in order to promote the development of expertise in information technology management, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary also printed in the bill. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment

has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted an open rule providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3925, the Digital Tech Corps Act of 2002. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform.

The rule further provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Finally, the rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

H. Res. 380 is an open and fair rule. It allows any Member who wishes to offer an amendment every opportunity to do so. Mr. Speaker, this bill is aimed to bring a bit of common sense to the Federal Government, and heaven knows there is not a lot of that going around these days.

It would allow IT managers in the Federal Government and the private sector to essentially exchange information in order to see how the other side works and learn from it. Federal workers would be exposed to the private industry's best practices management, while the private employees would get the opportunity to see the challenges that Federal workers face.

Currently, the Federal Government lacks the ability to compete with the high-paying jobs of the private sector. The government is constantly struggling to recruit and retain employees with the expertise and the latest and